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LETTER DATED 3 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention yet another series of heinous terrorist acts committed by ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia:

1. On 2 February 2000, an anti-tank rocket hit a bus of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the road between Kosovska Mitrovica and Banja with 49 passengers, all of them Serbs. Two passengers were killed, three severely wounded, while 20 passengers were taken to the French base hospital.

2. On 3 February 2000, a bomb was thrown into a cafe in Kosovska Mitrovica. Twelve Serbs were wounded.

The most recent terrorist acts of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), transformed into the so-called Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), have caused the justified anger of the Serbian population in Kosovska Mitrovica and throughout the province and provide tragic evidence that KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) have done nothing to disarm the KLA and ensure protection to all residents of Kosovo and Metohija, their basic obligations under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999. These acts of ruthless terrorism are also an outright consequence of the establishment of the KPC, whereafter attacks on Serbs and other non-Albanians have escalated.

The fact that the terrorist attacks were carried out on the UNHCR bus filled with Serbs while escorted by KFOR, and on the cafe in Kosovska Mitrovica in which the presence of KFOR is very extensive, is of particular concern. It shows that, even after eight months since its deployment, KFOR is unable to carry out its basic obligation under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) to ensure a secure environment for all residents of Kosovo and Metohija.

The failure of KFOR and UNMIK to provide protection is a disgrace and, along with the fact that the bus ferried Serbs alone - which was to be known

only to UNHCR, KFOR and UNMIK - raises serious questions as to their credibility, as well as their responsibility for the attacks.

The circumstances of these tragic incidents prove once again that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been right in warning that KFOR and UNMIK lack the resolve and readiness to guarantee freedom of movement and security to all. Such an attitude has resulted in the ethnic cleansing of Serbs, Montenegrins, Goranci, Turks and other non-Albanians: over 350,000 of them have been expelled or forced to leave Kosovo and Metohija.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia finds the confused, languid and vague reaction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the perfidious attack on the UNHCR bus unacceptable. It does not condemn the rampant terrorism which is a direct consequence of the agreement his Special Representative has made with ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists on the transformation of the KLA into the KPC.

In reminding the Security Council that its failure to seriously confront the continued exacerbation of the security situation in Kosovo and Metohija in outright disregard for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the ethnic cleansing of Serbs and other non-Albanians, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia takes the opportunity to warn once again that such an attitude will bring about an escalation of terrorism throughout the region. It will result in a destabilization of the Balkans and South-East Europe, for which the Security Council will be solely responsible.

In bringing these terrorist acts to your attention, I convey herewith the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be convened to consider them.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.